

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A port-sharing system comprising:  
2 a computing resource having a port;  
3 a monitoring interface to said computing resource available via said  
4 port;  
5 a plurality of end user devices to be connected to said monitoring  
6 interface; and  
7 a liaison interface to handle communications from said plurality of  
8 end user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface and to  
9 handle communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to  
10 said communications from said end user devices, respectively.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein:  
2 said port is a first port;  
3 said liaison interface has a second port;  
4 said liaison interface is operable to connect to each of said plurality  
5 of end user devices via said second port while being connected to said  
6 computing resource via said first port.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein said liaison interface includes at  
2 least one handling daemon.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is operable to  
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices the impression of  
3 being directly connected to said computing resource.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring system is operable  
2 to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are  
3 indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

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3 and wherein said plurality of end user devices is operable as a terminal on  
4 said network.

1 10. A liaison apparatus between a plurality of end user devices and a  
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the  
3 monitoring interface, the apparatus comprising:

4 a front input/output (I/O) unit to communicate with said plurality of  
5 end user devices;

6 a back I/O unit to connect to said port of said computing resource;

7 and

8 a liaison unit to handle communications from said plurality of end  
9 user devices via said front I/O unit that are intended for said monitoring  
10 interface and to handle communications from said monitoring interface via  
11 said back I/O unit that correspond to said communications from said end  
12 user devices, respectively.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

2 said back I/O unit has a second port; and

3 said front I/O unit is operable to connect to each of said plurality of  
4 end user devices via said second port while said back I/O unit is connected  
5 to said computing resource via said first port.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said liaison unit is operable to  
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices is given the  
3 impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitoring interface is  
2 operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that  
3 are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

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1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said computing resource is a  
2 mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status  
3 display page (SDP) interface.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said back I/O unit, said front  
2 I/O unit and said liaison unit take the form of a daemon running on a  
3 network server, wherein the network is connectable to said computing  
4 resource.

1 16. A liaison method between a plurality of end user devices and a  
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the  
3 monitoring interface, the method comprising:  
4 connecting to said port of said computing resource;  
5 connecting to said plurality of end user devices; and  
6 handling communications from said plurality of end user devices  
7 that are intended for said monitoring interface and handling  
8 communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said  
9 communications from said end user devices, respectively.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:  
2 said port is a first port; and  
3 connections to each of said plurality of end user devices are made  
4 via a second port of an intermediary processor while said intermediary  
5 processor is connected to said computing resource via said first port.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein each user of one of said plurality  
2 of end user devices is given the impression of being directly connected to  
3 said computing resource.

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- 1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the monitoring interface is  
2 operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that  
3 are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.
- 1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said computing resource is a  
2 mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status  
3 display page (SDP) interface.
- 1 21. The method of claim 16, wherein said steps of connecting to said  
2 port, connecting to said plurality of end user devices and multiplexing are  
3 performed by a daemon running on a network server, wherein the network  
4 is connectable to said computing resource.
- 1 22. A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a program  
2 to be processed by a server to cause said server to implement the method of  
3 claim 16.

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